

*He gave man speech,
And speech created thought,
Which is the measure
of the universe.*

PROMETHEUS

REGIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
AT GREENFIELD

April, 1963

Volume 1, No. 4

DEAN SULLIVAN r e s i g n s

One of the main talents of Dean Sullivan is exhibited below--raffling dough-nuts in Fay Hall, at the First Methodist Church. Like many other things he sold students this year, he sold the dough-nuts. In reflecting about my and other students' past year with Dean Sullivan, it would be very easy to write an article that read like an obituary, but Dean Sullivan's departure from our already hallowed but not yet ivy-covered halls is only a sad loss to our College. It is not a loss to American education. It is not a loss to the world. Dean Sullivan's departure is a beginning, a step forward, a move towards the light that awaits man at the end of the tunnel of life. He will be going to AIC in Springfield to become involved in teacher education, "Something I want to do so badly I can taste it," he said. Dean Sullivan is going to teach teachers, to instruct them in the art of teaching that he has so ably learned; this is indeed a step forward, both for himself and American education. We are sad to see him go, we have all benefited--College, community, and students--from his efforts here, we can but wish him success that will be his, and be glad for the future students of the teachers he will instruct in the Fine Art of teaching.

N. H.

SOCIAL C L A S S

It is always true that many things take place within one's own country, region, and neighborhood, that one is unaware of. Many of these things have been going on for years, and we never learn of them, and are never told about

them. One of the things that most of us have opinions about--these based on usually incomplete knowledge--is social class. For the conclusion of this semester the Humanities program will probe (if only the veneer) social class in America. Students will learn about the life of Porto Ricans in New York City, New England Yankees, class in the Deep South, the Mid-West, and the West. One of the important things that students will learn to understand are the two contradictory yet fundamental ideas of American democracy: that everyone is born free and equal--everyone has the right to succeed and reach the top; contradictory because if all men are equal there is no top stratum for them to strive for and no bottom one from which they can raise themselves, but one single level on which they must all spend their lives.



It might be said that there is very little difference between the ostrich and the provincialist--both bury their head in the sand when something new and strange comes along. The only trouble with the above definition is that the term provincial has not been defined (assuming we all know what an ostrich is).

Recently there have been many dictionary definitions of the word provincial tossed around. These definitions have been used to prove both the 'provincialness' and 'unprovincialness' of Greenfield. There are, however, very few words in the standard English vocabulary that are purely denotative; most have additional side meanings with decisively good or bad connotations. Provincial is generally accepted to have a bad connotation, implying backward culture, traditional in attitude, bound to the past and preventing forward progress, narrow and limited in outlook with little awareness of the overall condition of man and his environment. With connotations such as these, nobody would be "damned" glad to be provincial, unless he were a fool. It is, of course, possible for an individual to be so completely 'unprovincial' that he becomes provincial.

Like most things, there is a degree of provincialness--in order to argue the point for or against Greenfield we must have the same criteria of comparison. Compared with the big city--Boston, New York--Greenfield is certainly provincial; compared with Ozark towns in Tennessee, Greenfield is not provincial (according to my connotations of the word). By stating that a town or area is provincial does not mean that every individual in that town or area is provincial, just that the general attitude of the people and the governing segment is primarily provincial.

It would seem common sense that a small town in the position of Greenfield (in both geographical and in State and County importance) is going to be more provincial than a big city. The big city has the resources and the individuals to give it high standards of education, or to provide recreation, hospital, and rehabilitation facilities. In the big cities the individual is obscured by the mass of people, but he can still maintain his autonomy--he simply loses himself in the mass. The news media in the city is on a less personal basis and is far more varied in source. The big city has these and many other advantages over the small town; (to page 3)

Letter

we are provincial!

We are provincial because we are still old fashioned. We don't want to shed the ways of our ancestors. The world is growing smaller all the time, so to speak; actually we are making it seemingly smaller through modern inventions such as the automobile and the telephone. We must become modern. We must communicate over greater distances than our grandparents did. We must share our ideas with many more people. Our neighbors must be everyone. Some of us need to realize that the people from other towns aren't that much different from us. We all read the same newspaper. We all work together.

Let us look in general at Franklin County. This is the approximate area served by the College. To us, the students at this Regional College, Franklin County is almost like a large town. Most of the high school rivalries have been put away as memories and we are beginning to co-operate as a body of people all working toward a similar goal. Of course, we still have some pride for our home town, but we feel that this pride is expanding to become pride for our region.

But, it seems that this area is clearly much different from other areas, especially the areas around large cities. Progress is much more distinct in the city. The younger generations have a much greater voice in affairs. In the small rural towns, who runs the town business? Is it not the people that are well past their prime of life? Are new ideas accepted readily in the rural areas? For example, what is the older generation's opinion of the Route 91 project? Some people will still be saying that it isn't necessary, ten years from now. Why don't the older generations of this area readily accept new and better ideas? Is it because they are content living as they are? We all must expand with the times. We can't sit back and grow stagnant. Surely this generation of people that I am proud to be part of, will make the word provincialism a forgotten term. Provincialism cannot and must not exist. The students of this Regional College (to page 3)

using the city as comparison, Greenfield is provincial.

But perhaps this talk of provincialism can be seen from another light--a light that shines both in the big city and the small town. Perhaps it can be seen as a segment of the generally friendly, but continuous battle between the young and the old; between the impetuous, stubborn, starry-eyed, daring, challenging youth, and the complacent, content, satisfied, stubborn adults (I am, of course, making a generalization for not all the youth and adults fit these respective descriptions, but most do). Most of the youth do not remain satrpy-eyed and all-conquering very long--the contented adults who make up the majority of society see to that.

If seen in this light it is for the students to change the degree of provincialism in Greenfield, and it is up to the adults of Greenfield to allow the students to educate themselves as thoroughly as possible--to adopt broad outlooks and varied opinions, to learn to speak out and to fight for what they believe, no matter what it is they believe in.

"And the most important verse, is the one they wrote down in Montgomery, Alabama. They said, 'We are not afraid.' And the young people taught everybody else a lesson, all the older people that have learned how to compromise and learned how to take it easy, and be polite and get along, and leave things as they were, the young people taught us all a lesson, 'We are not afraid'." Pete Seeger said this in reference to a verse to the freedom-rider song (and what is considered the intergrationalist anthem), "We Shall Overcome." The verse was first written and sung by a group of white and negro youths in Montgomery, Alabama.

N. H.

PROMETHEUS welcomes letters from members of the community or from students of any college or university to express an opinion in its pages, or to criticize its opinion.

letters: from page two

are the pioneers that will, in our day, see the end of provincialism. This end will be the result of regionalization.

Roger Reed.

The above letter and a recent letter to the editor of the Greenfield Recorder-Gazette spoke of "regionalism" and seem to believe it preferable to what they call provincialism in Greenfield. Suffice to say that when provincialism is ousted and regionalism is the problem, these same people will talk about "Stateism"; eventually they may begin to realize the existence of "nationalism" and "internationalism." --Editor.

THE GREAT AWAKENING

As I awake this morning
When all secret things are born
A robin perched upon the sill
To signal the coming of dawn.

The bird was joyful, young, and gay
And so sweet did he sing
The thoughts of happiness and joy
Into my heart did bring.

I smiled softly at the cheery song
Then as it paused in a moments lull
I gently closed the window
And crushed his goddam skull.

Anonymous.

The above's poetic value is rather doubtful, but it was written by a dying man in a hospital.

QUOTH the THOG!

'Tis said, a man can't be aught in politics without some cordial support in his own district; nor can a man dupe others long, who has not duped himself first.

Ralph Waldo Emerson.

National Federal Aid to Education Conference

By the time this newspaper has gone to print a National Student Conference on Federal Aid to Education will have been held in Washington, D.C. Seventeen student organizations in the United States are sponsoring the Conference, which was held on April 25-26.

The purpose of the conference was to discuss the problem of education in this country, and the related responsibilities of the Federal Government. President Kennedy's recent proposals to Congress for aid to education set out current educational needs and what the Federal Government should do to meet them. A crucial part of the conference would necessarily have been the demonstration of active support for these proposals, and participants will have been called upon to individually and collectively inform Congress of national student opinion.

The program of the conference was to include workshops, visits to Congressman and Senators, and addresses from prominent government officials in the field of education.

The following is a statement proposed and passed by the Steering Committee of the Conference, March 24, 1963:

"The National Student Federal Aid to Education (FATE) Conference will be held to formulate and make known national student opinion on the subject of Federal Aid to Education and more specifically on the National Education Improvement Act of 1963 now before Congress...As many national student organizations as reasonably possible will sponsor and participate in the Conference. Any college student, undergraduate or graduate, may be a delegate to the Conference, so that the Conference may represent a cross section of American college students and may accurately reflect national student opinions."

GLEE CLUB

It seems the College Glee Club has gone the way of all other College activities, save bowling--there were about five students at the last meeting.

SWIMMING

To date, there are five students attempting to fulfill their swimming requirements at the YMCA.

Any student wishing to receive his Associate in Arts degree from the College must be able to pass the YMCA swimming test.

LIBRARY RULE

By now, we hope, there should be a rule affecting "library gabbers"--they will be ejected and warned when caught disturbing the library peace the first time, and exiled for the rest of the semester the second time.

STUDENT DRESS

Finally a decision has been reached about student dress. So long as your dress is neat, tidy, clean, and appropriate, you can wear whatever you wish. This includes Bermuda shorts, and presumably dungarees, providing they are not paint or grease smeared.

We suggest that students consider the word 'appropriate' when attending the Director's Hour, since it is open to the public.

provincial panel

A panel of students from this College will discuss provincialism before a meeting of the South Deerfield PTA, at the Frontier High School, 8:30 p.m., May 8.

There is much Beauty in the world, it can be found wheresoever man wishes to see it.

PROMETHEUS is published each month of the College year by the students at the Regional Community College, Greenfield

Editor....Norman Hall

Staff Photographer Lettering
C. D. Davis Conrad Halberg
Cartoonist....Jim Lawlor

Staff

Janet Mowry Stacia Podlo
Sue Verrill Jack Ward
Marvin Wizwer